



USAID | MACEDONIA
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



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PRESS RELEASE

USAID Celebrates Renovation Projects in Skopje's Old Bazaar

In a celebration held at the Children's Theater Center in the Old Bazaar in Skopje, representatives of the Municipality of Cair, the City of Skopje, and USAID gathered to mark the completion of the Street Renovation Project in Skopje's Old Bazaar.

Through the Street Renovation Project, over 400 potholes in the main streets of the Old Bazaar were repaired thanks to contributions from the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), which is a part of the U.S. Mission in Macedonia. The potholes were filled by resetting existing stones and introducing a specially prepared Travertine stone to maintain the aesthetic continuity of the Old Bazaar.

The new stone is safer to walk on and is expected to give a boost to the Old Bazaar as a historical, cultural, economic, tourist, and traditional crafts center. The Municipality of Cair contributed \$130,000 for this project, with the remainder supplied by USAID.

"USAID was pleased to support this street renovation project in the Old Bazaar. We have provided \$118,000 for this effort because we want to help the Old Bazaar reach its full potential as a prime destination in the City of Skopje", said Timothy Donnay, Acting Mission Director for USAID. "The Children's Theater Center—which was renovated in 2001 in part with USAID funding and which is used regularly for cultural activities in the Old Bazaar—is a great example of how a project which is maintained by the community benefits everyone."

NOTES TO EDITORS:

The American people, through USAID, have invested more than \$450 million in Macedonia since 1993. More than 20 projects worth \$30 million a year are currently being implemented. These projects are designed to support Macedonia's transition to a free market-based, multi-ethnic democracy. They include initiatives to accelerate economic growth, develop democratic institutions, and educate citizens for a modern economy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>